INDIGENIST FEMINIST MOVEMENTS
RESISTANCE AND RESILIENCE
A DOUBLE ERASURE?

Government policies
1. Annihilation
   - Annihilation
2. Assimilation
   - Assimilation
3. Neglect
   - Neglect
4. Intervention
   - Intervention
5. Self-determination
   - Self-determination

Indigenous rights movements
- Vote
- Equal pay for stockmen
- Native Title
- National apology
- Blak deaths in custody
- Change the date
- Raise the age
- The Voice

Women’s rights movements
- Vote
- Family law act
- Rape within marriage
- Commission
- Coercive Control
- March4Justice
- Rosie Batty
- Jess Hill
- Hannah Clarke
- Grace Tame & Britany Higgins

The Equality Institute
INDIGENOUS WOMEN’S MOVEMENTS
The intersection between these multiple drivers results in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experiencing disproportionate levels of violence, with particularly severe and complex impacts.
Violence against Indigenous women

STATISTICS

Indigenous women are hospitalised due to family violence at 32x the rate of non-Indigenous women, and at 3x the rate of Indigenous males.

In the NT, Indigenous women are hospitalised from assault at 69x the rate of non-Indigenous women.

Indigenous women are almost 11x more likely to be killed due to assault than non-Indigenous women.

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is 10.9% of the burden of disease for Indigenous women between the ages of 18 and 44.

This is the highest health risk factor for Indigenous women, more than smoking, obesity, and alcohol.

Our Watch, 2018, ‘Changing the Picture’

Havnen, 2012
METHODOLOGY

- Linda Tuhiwai Smith (1999) argues that “methodology is important because it frames the questions being asked, determines the set of instruments and methods to be employed and shapes the analyses” (p. 143).
- Indigenist methodology
- Feminist standpoint theory
- Qualitative research
  - Case study
  - Participatory action research
Indigenist methodology cannot be discussed without first unpacking the historically exploitative relationship between researchers and Indigenous people.
RESEARCH AS COLONISATION
RESEARCH AS INTERVENTION

Source: Department of Social Services. Figures accurate as of 18 October 2013.
INDIGENIST FEMINIST APPROACH IN PRACTICE
“DON’T TALK ABOUT WHAT YOU DON’T KNOW”
“NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US”

• The lived experiences of Indigenous women.
• Privilege the voices of Indigenous women
• the feminist priority area of gender-based violence, but through the lens of Indigenous agency and empowerment
• Focus on how Indigenous women address the problems within their own homes and communities.
• Consider the power structures which oppress Indigenous women in relationships with their partners and the state – contextualised within the ongoing colonisation of Indigenous peoples’ lands and how this affects Indigenous women.
• a methodology which is participatory and considerate of local knowledge
• qualitative methods are also favoured by feminist standpoint theory and Indigenist methodology
• The research and researchers practice cultural safety
• Data sovereignty
PARTICIPATORY CASE STUDIES

Three participatory case studies

• Galwin’ku Women’s Space
• Strong Women Talking
• The separate National Action Plans for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women

Selection Criteria:

• Targeted at preventing violence against Indigenous women.
• Indigenous-led: Indigenous women have been instrumental to conception, design, delivery and leadership
• Working within Indigenous contexts in Australia.
• Willingness to work in partnership on this research project.
INDIGENOUS WOMEN’S MOVEMENTS ALREADY HAVING IMPACT ON POLICY CHANGE

"Nobody listens to us, they talk over the top of us, they tell us what we are doing in our communities, and no-one listens to the women in the communities, towns, and suburbs who have to deal with all those young women, older women and children fleeing from violence.”